

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method, comprising temporarily increasing a buffer size for a router configured to  
2 receive packets transmitted through a communications network at a time instant  
3 corresponding to an onset of congestion of the router for a time period.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein increasing the buffer size comprises providing an  
2 auxiliary storage area for packets that would otherwise be stored in a queue at the router.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the auxiliary storage area is associated with a physical  
2 storage device external to the router.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the time period comprises approximately a round-trip  
2 time interval for a packet transmitted in the network.